

Mrs. Reid (Sylvia) Young;
Mrs. Richard (Blanche) Buchanan.

JACOB PROBST AND MARY HUBER PROBST



Bishop of Midway Second Ward 1903-1935.

Jacob Probst was born January 3, 1864, at Habstatten, Switzerland. He was the son of John Ulrich Probst Sr., and Anna Barbara Kiener. His father accepted the gospel when young Jacob was five years old. The first Mormon missionaries to come to their home in Switzerland were Karl G. Maeser and Willard Richards.

The Probst family emigrated from their old home to Utah in 1872. They arrived in Salt Lake City July 4.

After resting a few days with friends in Salt Lake, they were met by some Midway people who had come with horse and ox teams to move the emigrants to Midway. It took three days to make the trip.

Jacob Probst was baptized September 8, 1872 and confirmed the same day. He had two years of schooling in the old country and then attended school in Midway until he was about fourteen years old. School was held only about four or five months a year.

At the age of twenty-one, he started to shift for himself. He began work in the timber business for the Park City mines. He stayed with this work for about six years. During the winter, he attended school at the BYU in the years 1889, 1890, and 1891. In the spring of 1891 he was called from his school to go on a mission to Switzerland and Germany.

On September 25, 1891 he was married to Mary M. Huber in the Manti Temple by Elder Athon Lund. Two weeks later he left for his mission. He spent two and one-

half years in the mission field, returning home March 21, 1894. He made many converts.

When he returned home, he built a log cabin in Snake Creek where their first child, Karl, was born. He was getting ready to build a larger house in the same place when a flood came down the canyon doing so much damage that he decided not to build there.

They had five children: Karl, Vernon, Stella, Leah, and Stanley. Leah was stricken with appendicitis when she was nine years old. Since there was no hospital, she was operated on in the home. She died in a few days. Stella died at the age of sixteen with smallpox. Stanley died when he was just about one year old. He was never well. They always said that when Stella died, the sunshine went out of their home.

Jacob Probst held many offices in the Church and community as follows. MIA president, secretary of the 96th Quorum of Seventies and High Councilman. In 1903, he was made Bishop of the Midway 2nd Ward, which position he held for 33 years. He was County Commissioner for four years, County Assessor for seven years, and town board member for eight years.

It would be hard to estimate the time he gave in service while he was Bishop. He would leave his work in the field to go and administer to the sick or help someone in need. During the flu epidemic he was going constantly, helping wherever possible and burying the dead. He was called on to settle many family disputes and many people went to him for advice.

He had a very pleasing countenance and was always kind and patient. He found time to listen to anyone who had a problem or needed his help in any way.

After he was released from being Bishop, he moved to Salt Lake where he began working in the temple. He became an ordained worker, and temple work became his whole life. After many happy years at the temple, he became ill and was operated on at the LDS Hospital.

After a lingering illness, he died, having lived a full, rich and very useful life and leaving behind him a host of friends.

Mary Magdalena Huber Probst was born in Midway on October 15th to Mary Magdalena Muntz Huber and John Huber in the year 1869. She was given a name and a blessing by her father on February 21, 1870. Later in 1870 her father was called to go to

Switzerland on a mission for the Church. Her sister, Emma, was born while he was away.

The family endured many trials and hardships, there being four small children for the mother to care for alone.

In the year 1873, her father returned from his mission and soon built a more comfortable home for them.

In about the year 1876, the family moved to Little Cottonwood. Here John Huber acted as agent for the Wasatch and Jordan Valley railroad, shipping Granite for the building of the Salt Lake Temple. At this time Mary was a child between six and seven years of age. She often carried her father's lunch across the creek to the Quarry Station where he worked.

From here the family moved to Salt Lake City, where they lived for a little more than a year. Here, Mary attended the St. Mary's school.

About 1878, the family moved back to Midway where they lived for a short time and then moved to Snake Creek.

As a little girl, Mary spent much of her time with her grandmother Nageli. She enjoyed watching her spin and weave and knit or make soap and candles. She also had a very beautiful voice and often she sang with the children teaching them the old German songs that she loved. She often took Mary with her at harvest time to glean in the wheat fields or pick up potatoes. At this time oxen were used to plow the fields.

Another job which fell to the lot of the children, was herding cows. There were very few fences and the cows had to be herded on the foothills. In the summer they were driven far up in the foothills as far as the Dugway and the Upper Narrows in Bonner Hollow.

In the evening the children took turns tramping bare-footed up in the canyon to bring the cows home.

The old ranch house in Snake Creek was the setting for many happy times. There were no Sunday night meetings, no picture shows, and no automobiles, so they had to make their fun. At night they often built a large bonfire and then played games or sang and told stories. Often the young people from town came to join them. Mary's father was a fine musician and sometimes he played his guitar and joined in the songs. Socials were very few. They had two or three dances each year.

The children usually walked to Primary, carrying the eggs to town which they traded for groceries to take home.

In the winter the family moved to town so the children could attend school. Each family had to pay the teacher, so their education was limited.

Mary was baptized on August 8th, by John Watkins and confirmed the same day by Bishop David Van Wagoner.

She attended the Brigham Young Academy in 1889, 1890 and graduated from the Junior Department in May, 1891.

Her husband left for a mission to Germany on October 9th, 1891, just two weeks after they were married. While he was away she taught school for two years in the west wing of the old postoffice building.

During her life she held the following positions in the church, besides being the wife of a bishop for thirty-three years: first counselor in the MIA to president Mary Watkins, president for five years of the Midway Second ward Primary and first counselor to president Martha Bronson in the Second Ward Relief Society.

After her husband was released from serving as bishop of the Midway Second Ward they left Midway and moved to Salt Lake City where they both could work in the temple. She was not very well at this time but went to the temple as often as her health would permit.

On May 7, 1940, she died from a heart attack while preparing to go to the temple.

Children of Jacob Probst and Mary M. Huber:

Karl, married Carrie Wright;
Vernon, married Melba Duke;
Leah, died in childhood;
Estella, died in youth;
Stanley, died in infancy.

JACOB B. PROBST, bishop of Midway Ward No. 2 in the Church of the Latter Day Saints, has been not only an earnest churchman but one of the most successful citizens and business men in Wasatch County.

Mr. Probst was born in Switzerland, January 3, 1864, son of John Ulrich and Anna Barbara (Kliener) Probst. He was eight years of age when his parents came to America, in 1872, and settled in Wasatch County, Utah. On the farm of his parents Mr. Probst spent his early years, attending local schools and the

chief business has been farming, stock raising and merchandising. He built up an extensive estate as a stock raiser and irrigation farmer and for a number of years was manager of the local cooperative store.

As a young man he went back to his native land and spent two and a half years in missionary duty there and in Germany. His service as bishop of the Midway Ward covers a period of over twenty-nine years, since 1903. For three years he was also stake high counselor. Mr. Probst is a Republican, was for four years county commissioner, assessor six years, member of the town council eight years, and for two years a justice of the peace. But brief enumeration of services and positions held is all that is necessary to establish his identity as one of the men of mark in modern Utah.

Mr. Probst married in September, 1891, Miss Mary M. Huber. She was born in Wasatch County, but her parents, John and Mary M. (Munz) Huber, came from Switzerland to America in 1863 and crossed the plains to Utah with ox teams. Mr. and Mrs. Probst have two living children. The son Carl L. married Carrie Wright, of Hinckley, Utah. The son Vernon H. has active charge of his father's farm. The three deceased children were named Leah, Estella and Stanley.

Utah by Allen Vol III pp 160-1